



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/702,933	10/31/2000	Craig Mahaney	Sprint-IDF-1499(4000-0250	9940
28003	7590	11/23/2004	EXAMINER	
SPRINT 6391 SPRINT PARKWAY KSOPHT0101-Z2100 OVERLAND PARK, KS 66251-2100			TAYLOR, BARRY W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2643	

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/702,933	Applicant(s) MAHANEY, CRAIG	
	Examiner Barry W Taylor	Art Unit 2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridger et al. (6,272,209 hereinafter Bridger) in view of Gidwani (6,640,239)

Regarding claims 10, 14, 18 and 22. Bridger teaches an apparatus for determining the operational status of an integrated services hub supporting a plurality of telephone lines (Title, abstract), comprising:

a plurality of subscriber line interface circuits (SLIC), the number of SLICs equaling the number of telephone lines ... (col. 1 lines 5-67, columns 2-10, see subscriber line interface circuits in figures 3-5);

at least one subscriber line access circuit connected to the SLICs to detect an off-hook condition in the telephone line (col. 2 lines 40-67, col. 3 lines 1-3, col. 3 lines 60-62, col. 5 lines 41-43, col. 7 lines 1-10);

a power monitor for monitoring the status of AC power to the integrated services hub (see "LIFELINE" in the Title, abstract, col. 3 lines 60-63, col. 5 lines 41-43, col. 6 lines 4-67, col. 7 lines 26-28, lines 39-41, col. 8 lines 4-6, lines 26-31);

a telephony controller, the telephony controller receiving notification from the power monitor regarding the AC power status (see "LIFELINE" in the Title, abstract, col.

Art Unit: 2643

3 lines 60-63, col. 5 lines 41-43, col. 6 lines 4-67, col. 7 lines 26-28, lines 39-41, col. 8 lines 4-6, lines 26-31), the telephony controller receiving notification from the SLAC on an off-hook condition (col. 3 lines 60-63, col. 5 lines 41-45, col. 6 lines 29-31, columns 7-10).

Bridger does not explicitly show signaling to the user that the AC power has failed.

Gidwani teaches an apparatus and method for intelligent scalable switching (title, abstract) wherein Lifeline Service capability is provided (columns 12-13 and 59-60).
Gidwani recognizes that prior art life line services are carried only over the pots lines (col. 12 lines 17-18) power via central office life line. Gidwani provides power management at the Customer Premise side (col. 12 line 57-59) by using battery backup circuitry that is automatically charged during times when power is available to the system (col. 13 lines 1-33). Gidwani discloses that subscriber is notified when power failure occurs (see col. 13 lines 24-33 wherein indicator used to notify user of battery backup in a power outage condition, see columns 59-60 wherein subscriber is specifically notified that central office is in a lifeline services only mode and consequently no data or video services are enabled, as well as, given specific reason why power failure occurred).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Bridger to employ power

Art Unit: 2643

management at the Customer Premise as taught by Gidwani for the benefit of providing subscribers with voice or IP.

Regarding claims 11-12, 15-16, 19-20 and 23-24. Gidwani notifies subscriber when power failure occurs (see col. 13 lines 24-33 wherein indicator used to notify user of battery backup in a power outage condition, see columns 59-60 wherein subscriber is specifically notified that central office is in a lifeline services only mode and consequently no data or video services are enabled, as well as, given specific reason why power failure occurred).

Regarding claims 13, 21 and 25. Bridger teaches wherein the telephony controller and the power monitor are software components (see first line of abstract, columns 1-10).

Regarding claim 17. Bridger teaches wherein the telephony controller and the power monitor are software components (see first line of abstract, columns 1-10).

Method claims 1-4 are rejected for the same reasons as apparatus claims 10-13 since the recited apparatus would perform the claimed steps.

Method claims 5-9 are rejected for the same reason as apparatus claims 14-17 since the recited apparatus would perform the claimed steps.

Response to Arguments

Art Unit: 2643

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W. Taylor whose telephone number is (703) 305-4811. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 customer service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry W. Taylor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barry W. Taylor
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2600
Art Unit 2643